



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2003

CONTACT: Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor)  
(517) 373-2406

### **BRATER BILL WILL PROHIBIT DANGEROUS ITEMS FROM LANDFILLS**

(LANSING)—State Senator Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) introduced legislation yesterday that will ban all household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs from Michigan's landfills and municipal solid waste incinerators.

"Cutting down on the number of items with contaminants in our landfills should always be a goal of lawmakers," said Brater. "Eliminating these items will not only reduce what we landfill but should have a positive impact on our water and air quality."

This legislation is another step in the effort to protect Michigan's land, air, and water by preventing the dumping of dangerous items and substances in our landfills. During a subcommittee meeting last month, Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven Chester announced he would be putting together a plan to increase landfill inspections. With over 3.2 million tons of trash coming from outside Michigan, this will be an important measure to assure that prohibited items are not being shipped in from other states and Canada.

-more-

“It is critical that we take all possible actions to reduce the amount of contaminants we put into our land and air,” said Brater. “Over 3 billion household batteries are used and discarded nationwide every year. This bill will help keep our share of that 3 billion out of Michigan landfills and incinerators.”

Earlier this year, Brater introduced Senate Bill 98, which would reduce the flow of waste from other states and Canada, and require that it meet Michigan’s regulatory standards. Car batteries, used motor oil, yard clippings, and tires are currently banned from Michigan landfills.

Senator Liz Brater represents Senate District 18, which includes the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the Villages of Chelsea and Dexter and the following Townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster, and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee. In February 2003, Senator Brater was appointed by Governor Granholm to serve on the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council. Senator Brater is known statewide as a leader on environmental issues.

#####